17. Proposal for Development of an Information Technology Center in Tripura: The World Bank has indicated that the proposal does not have a holistic and structured approach

18. Tripura Agricultural Development Project: The project has been posed to the World Bank.

19. Integrated Forestry Development in Tripura: The World Bank has informed that the project was not in their landing pipeline

20. Tripura Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Project: The project proposal was posed to Japan, but was not selected by the Government of Japan for financing

Credit Deposit Ratio of RRBS

2141. SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state'

(a) whether it is a fact that Credit Deposit Ratio of Regional Rural Banks has been continuously declining over the years;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken or propose to take to increase the Credit Deposit Ratio of RRBs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Investment Deposit Ratio of RRBs is higher as compared to their Credit Deposit Ratio; and

(d) if so, what measures Government propose to take to decrease the Investment Deposit Ratio and bring it to the minimum possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) to (d) The Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio of RRBs has increased from 41 96% in 1998-99 to 46.27% in 2003-2004. The Investment Deposit (ID) Ratio has declined from 71 25% during 1999-2000 to 60 04% during 2003-04 Various measures have been taken by the Government to encourage the RRBs to provide more Credit instead of Investment These measure include

1 Fixing higher target for lending to priority sector *i e.* 60% of their outstanding advances.

2. Permitting RRBs to finance education loan, rural housing loan etc.

3 Holding the sponsor banks squarely responsible for the performance and lending of their RRBs

4. Increasing credit flow to agriculture through Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs).

5. Permitting SHG-Bank linkage for productive activities in the rural areas.

6. Permitting RRBs to provide credit to non-target groups.

Investment in agriculture

2142. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of large investments in agriculture, particularly irrigation and infrastructure to reinforce the campaign against poverty and unemployment;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to raise resources for this massive investment in view of increasing revenue expenditure and rising revenue deficit, coupled with substantial decrease in domestic savings due to low rate of interest; and

(c) how grass-root poverty and rural unemployment would be taken care of in the above economic scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Budget 2004-05 has a thrust on development of rural infrastructure, expanding water harvesting, watershed development, minor-irrigation and micro-irrigation schemes and restoring water bodies.

(b) Such investment is to be made through credit-enabled private investments and enhanced public investment. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) 2003, aims at wiping out the revenue deficit in the medium term. This will open up fiscal space upto 3 per cent of the GDP for enhanced public investment without undermining fiscal prudence.

(c) Empowering the people, especially the poor, with universal access to education and health, and facilitating their full participation in the growth process, through targeted intervention and gainful employment, will meet the objective of eliminating poverty and unemployment. It will also reinforce the growth process, and help in tackling the problems of poverty and unemployment.